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WITH

BATMAN  
WORKBOOK

# BATMAN

PLUS  
WONDER  
WOMAN



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18>

 ACTION  STORIES  ADVENTURE 

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Arkham Asylum, where the maddest, the baddest and the most dangerous of Gotham City's criminals wind up.

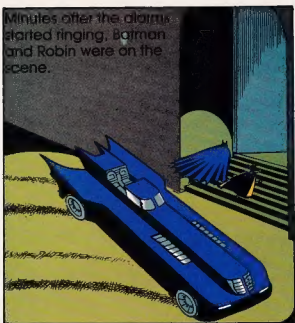


# IN RIDDLE ME FREE

Criminals such as...



Minutes after the alarms started ringing, Batman and Robin were on the scene.



HOW COULD YOU ALLOW **THE RIDDLER** TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR FACILITY?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

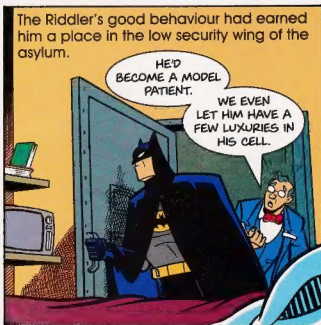
HE'S BEEN SO WELL BEHAVED RECENTLY.



The Riddler's good behaviour had earned him a place in the low security wing of the asylum.

HE'D BECOME A MODEL PATIENT.

WE EVEN LET HIM HAVE A FEW LUXURIES IN HIS CELL.



LIKE THIS TV SET?



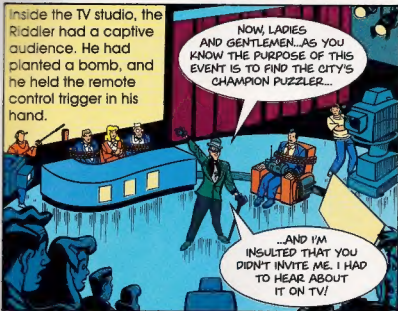
Batman realised that something must have made the Riddler snap back to his old ways.

ROBIN, CHECK THE COMPUTER AND TELL ME WHAT SHOWS WERE ON THIS EVENING.





WGGBS was showing a live puzzle tournament called the "Puzzlethon" that evening.



NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...AS YOU KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT IS TO FIND THE CITY'S CHAMPION PUZZLER...

...AND I'M INSULTED THAT YOU DIDN'T INVITE ME. I HAD TO HEAR ABOUT IT ON TV!



EVERYONE KNOWS I'M THE GREATEST PUZZLER THAT HAS EVER LIVED!



I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU. ASK ME A TOUGH ONE! C'MON! YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SET OFF THE BOMB, WOULD YOU?

I'LL TAKE ON ANY EXPERT HERE!

THEN TRY ME, RIDDLER!

-ULP!



WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE! RIDDLE ME THIS! WHAT'S BIG, BLACK AND BATTY, AND SPOILS ALL MY FUN!?

I CAN'T IMAGINE.





Then the Riddler tried every riddle he could think of but Batman knew them all.

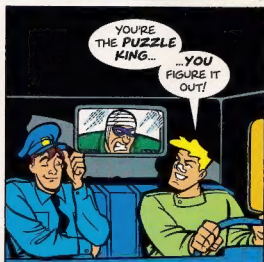
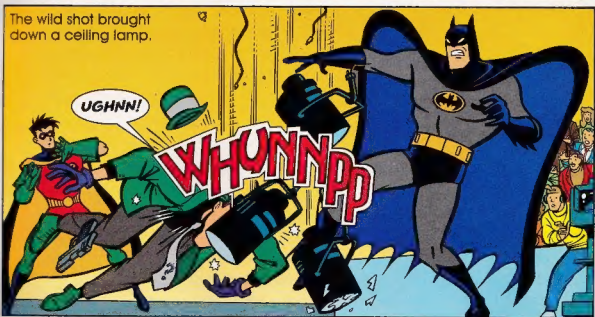


After half an hour of riddling, the Riddler was really frustrated.



But there was no explosion. While Batman had kept the Riddler talking, Robin had defused the bomb.





THE END

# ON WICKED WINGS



It was a hot, humid summer's afternoon in Gateway City. An old man stood at a bus stop wilting from the heat. He was carrying his heavy shopping and felt relief as a sudden gust of wind ruffled his hair and cooled his head. But a second later he was deafened by a high-pitched scream and his shopping suddenly vanished from his hands. The next thing he saw was a huge, winged monster, carrying his bag of food away through the city's canyon-like streets. "Stop, thief!" cried the terrified old man.

Not far away, some office workers, on the fourteenth floor of their building, were also sweltering in the stifling heat. The windows were open wide and fans struggled to provide the slightest breeze. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a fierce blast of air sent paperwork scattering in a flurry. Dozens of surprised faces appeared at the windows in time to see a familiar figure streak past them. "Look!" said one, pointing, "It's Wonder Woman!"

The Amazon Princess acknowledged them with a tight-lipped smile. She couldn't afford to hesitate for a second in case the creature she was pursuing escaped. She quickly glanced around but it was already too late, her quarry had gone! "That's impossible!" she thought. "I only lost sight of her for a second!"

Wonder Woman barely had time to look up when she heard the piercing scream of the Harpy diving down towards her. She had the long talons and powerful wings of a giant bird of prey, but with the face of a woman, her mouth glittering with razor sharp teeth.

The Harpy swooped in, slamming Wonder Woman to the ground before fleeing into the maze of buildings. As fast as lightning, Wonder

Woman leapt into the air after her. "Oh, no you don't!" she said. "You're not losing me again."

For several days the Harpy had plagued Gateway City, stealing an odd assortment of food, clothing and scraps, and leaving the police to wonder what a creature out of Greek mythology was doing in their city. Only Wonder Woman and a handful of others knew the whole story.

A week before, Diana, Wonder Woman's alter ego, had been lecturing at the Gateway City Museum of Antiquities. At that time, several crates containing archeological finds from a dig on the legendary Mount Olympus had just arrived from Greece.

Diana had been about to enter the lab where the crates were stored, when Professor Jones, the leader of the expedition, rushed out yelling, "The Harpy is alive!"

"What do you mean?" Diana had enquired.

"On the expedition," the professor had explained, "I discovered a life-size statue of the fabled Harpy, perfect in every detail. It was in a deep, cold cave at the heart of the mountain. An earthquake had sealed its entrance thousands of years ago, burying this valuable, historical treasure. But now as I was about to show the statue to our sponsors, it blinked and began to move. Then it shook off its surface dust, leapt forwards, and screamed a terrible, shrill scream. It smashed through a window and flew up into the sky. The Harpy isn't a statue, Diana. She's alive!"

Diana had quickly realised the Professor's mistake. "The Harpy was probably in the cave when the earthquake hit all those years ago," she had deduced. "Trapped by rubble, the creature must have fallen into a deep sleep and become frozen solid in the cave's low temperature. Now, the hot weather in Gateway City must have slowly warmed up the Harpy's body and revived her."

Since it had broken out of the museum, the creature had been terrorising the city and now Diana, as Wonder Woman, found herself chasing the Harpy through the city's





skyscraper canyons. She saw the creature take a sharp turn and disappear behind a billboard.

The Harpy seemed to think that it had lost the Amazon Princess and landed next to a low, condemned building. It looked around warily, then stepped inside.

Wonder Woman saw the creature enter the building and cautiously followed inside. The building was a decaying shell supported by a few fragile girders. Without warning the Harpy emerged screaming from the gloom and battered Wonder Woman against a wall with one sweep of her mighty wings. The entire building trembled with the impact.

The Harpy turned and slashed at her with deadly talons but Wonder Woman saw them coming. She looped her magic lasso around them and swung the furious creature into the opposite wall. The building shuddered under the force.

Slipping free of her bonds, the Harpy snapped at the Amazon Princess with sharp teeth. Wonder Woman jumped aside to avoid the cruel jaws. The Harpy dived toward Wonder Woman who, again, expertly avoided the attack by flipping over in a backward somersault. The creature crashed through an adjoining wall.

The impact caused girders and huge slabs of concrete to dislodge themselves in the weakened structure and they began raining inwards. The Harpy looked up, shrieked in horror and flew into the cloud of tumbling debris.

Wonder Woman was puzzled. She knew the super-strong Harpy could escape from the falling building with ease. But instead, the creature seemed to be trying to reach something through the falling metal and masonry. As she dodged and weaved through the crumbling building, a girder suddenly snapped loose just above the Harpy. The creature fell through the dust to the ground, pinned down by the girder.



Wonder Woman rushed to free the terrified creature. The Harpy seemed unconcerned about her injuries and Wonder Woman could see that her eyes were trying to focus on something high in the remaining beams.

"There's something up there," thought Wonder Woman, "and she's trying to reach it."

Dodging the falling rubble, Wonder Woman flew up to where the Harpy had been looking. There, tucked high in the corner of the building, on several shaky beams was a nest made of scraps and rags. In it were three eggs.

"Of course!" exclaimed Wonder Woman. "Stealing the food and the scraps. The ferocious way she fought! The Harpy isn't a monster. She's just a mother trying to protect and provide for her young!"

Realising that Wonder Woman meant her no harm, the Harpy did not resist when the Amazon Princess picked her up and carried her and her nest out of the building to safety. Seconds later, the building collapsed in on itself.

Later that day, Wonder Woman explained to a relieved Professor Jones what had happened.

"You see, the Harpy was in that cave centuries ago to build a nest where she could lay her eggs and raise her young. But the earthquake prevented that. When she was revived, her maternal instinct compelled her to continue with her task. She was only doing what came naturally to a good mother!"

"What will happen to her now?" enquired the concerned Professor.

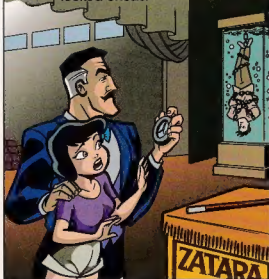
"I have taken her to Themyscira, the hidden island home of my people," replied Wonder Woman. "There she can finally raise her young in the peace that she deserves and without fear of her actions being misunderstood."

THE END



# BATMAN™ and the MAGICIAN

Before Bruce Wayne became Batman, he studied magic with Zatara, a master magician, and his daughter Zatanna. Bruce also learned how to escape from anything—shackles and chains, or locked chests.



When Bruce began fighting crime as the famed Batman, the escape skills he learned saved his life more than once—thanks to Zatara.



One day, Bruce read in the newspaper that Zatanna was in Gotham City performing in her own magic show. He went to the opening night performance. Zatanna amazed the audience, including Bruce, with her series of illusions, including one in which she made two white tigers float in mid-air.





On the stage with Zatanna stood Dr. Montague Kane. He made his living travelling from one magic show to the next, in the hope of exposing the magicians' secrets. But Zatanna was not worried. She knew her illusions inside out.



Zatanna waved her hands. There was a burst of light, and fog filled the stage. When it cleared, the statue was gone. The crowd cheered wildly



But when the fog cleared this time, the statue was still nowhere to be seen.

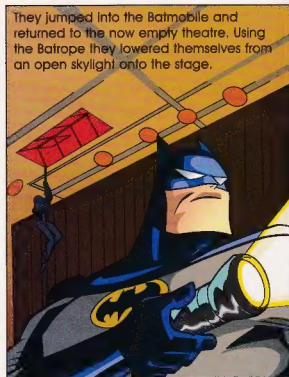




Bruce knew that Zatanna was not a thief. So, as Batman, he chased the police van that Zatanna had been taken away in. From the Batmobile he jumped onto the back of the police van and picked the door lock. He opened the door and freed Zatanna.



They jumped into the Batmobile and returned to the now empty theatre. Using the Batrope they lowered themselves from an open skylight onto the stage.



Zatanna explained to Batman how the disappearing trick was done. A hologram was projected onto the statue. It was still on stage, but the audience was unable to see it.







Batman saw some white dust on the stage. It was the flash powder Zatanna used to create the fog. Then he noticed some footprints in the powder.



When Batman and Zatanna arrived at Dr. Kane's house, the front door was unlocked. In the library they found a cloth dummy sitting in front of the fire place.



Batman grabbed an acid capsule from his Utility Belt and smashed it on a spike. The acid ate through the metal spike, which Batman broke off and used as a wedge to stop the moving walls. They stopped with a jolt. Batman and Zatanna used the spikes as a ladder to climb to safety.





Back in the library, Batman found a magazine article about Kane's private jet. Batman realised that Kane must have grabbed the statue during Zatanna's performance and hidden it in his cape.



Batman and Zatanna arrived at the airport just in time. But before they could confront Kane, his henchmen grabbed them from behind and knocked them out. When they came to, they were on board the plane, tied up in heavy chains.



Once the plane was airborne, Kane's men pushed Batman and Zatanna into the night sky.



But as they fell, Batman looped his foot through some netting attached to the door. They kept falling until the net snapped taut, leaving them hanging from the speeding plane.



As they were dragged along, Batman managed to pull a lock pick from his Utility Belt. He opened the locks, freeing them both. They slowly crawled up the netting and back inside the plane.

Before Kane and his men knew what had happened, Zatanna took a vial of flash powder from her pocket and threw it onto the cabin floor. Fog filled the cabin, and Batman and Zatanna quickly overpowered the thieves.



Batman flew the plane back to Gotham City where the police led Kane away.



THE END